

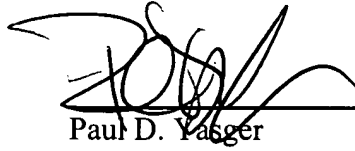
**Remarks:**

Claims 22-45 have been canceled. Upon entry of this amendment claims 46-59 will be pending.

Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance and therefore request such action. Additionally, applicants are requesting a check on the status of this case.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Y. Qui et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Yager', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul D. Yager  
Registration No. 37,477  
Attorney for Applicants